

Application No: 10/519,852
Amendment D
Reply to Office Action Dated 07/25/2007

Attorney Docket No: 3883.022

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REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 6-7 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 3-5 have been previously cancelled.

Claims Rejections – 35 USC 102

Claims 1-2 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Craighead (US 1,308,483).

The language of claim 1 has been modified to even more clearly define the present invention. More specifically, the language of claim 1 has been modified to emphasize that the bulge section is formed such that it has an arc shape that protrudes vertically downward when the sock is not worn and that the bulge section is formed in a middle part of the sole section between the first end and the second end of the toe section.

As already discussed in the previous response, in Craighead the fullness 3 is formed in the instep section and protrudes upwards, whereas in the present invention the bulge (11, 12) is formed in the sole section and protrudes downward.

The Examiner has stated that as shown in Fig. 2 of Craighead, although the bulge arc is greater in the upper section of the toe, there is still a bulge section in the sole section of the toe, and therefore Craighead reads on the claims.

However, it is noted that in Craighead the reference numeral 3 for the fullness only refers to the bulge arc in the upper section of the toe, not the bottom section of the toe. The bottom of the stocking may show a natural curve formed by the toes inserted in the stocking, but no pre-formed bulge was formed in the bottom. The language of claim 1 has been amended to emphasize that in the present invention the bulge section is pre-formed before the sock is worn.

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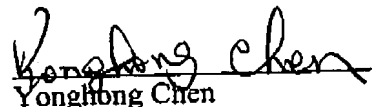
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Further, in Craighead the fullness 3 is formed at the root of the toe section, as can be clearly seen in Fig. 1. In contrast, in the present invention, the bulge section is formed in a middle part of the sole section between the first end (the tip) and the second end (the root) of the toe section.

Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over Craighead and since claims 2 and 6-7 are dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

Favorable consideration and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. Should further issues remain prior to allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,



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